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U-Bahn will be hosting a masquerade NYE party. AVERSA PR

Party like it's 2019

Philly has plenty of amazing New Year's celebrations to enjoy. MOLLY GIVEN

Stratus Lounge will be hosting an NYE party. STRATUS LOUNGE

Whether you are looking for a rocking party or an exciting event to do with your family, Philadelphia has plenty to do to help ring in 2019.

Stratus Rooftop Lounge
Guests have the option of purchasing a Gold ticket (open bar from 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $99), or a Platinum ticket (open bar plus reserved seating and access to the pavilions, with a Perrier Jouet bar and a Maker's Mark bar, $119). *433 Chestnut St., stratuslounge.com*

The Twisted Tail
The Twisted Tail is hosting its New Year's Eve Burlesque & Blues Party. Ticket options include a show-only option ($25) and VIP tickets (table service and reserved seating, $125). *509 S. 2nd St., thetwistedtail.com*

The Good King Tavern
There will be a St. Sylvestre prix fixe menu ($85), caviar service inspired by 1940s-style cigarette girls and "casual indulgence," wine pairings curated by in-house wine-o Chloé Grigi and more. Reservations are recommended. *614 S. 7th St., thegoodkingtavern.com*

Caviar service on NYE. THE GOOD KING TAVERN

Tiki
Tiki will be celebrating its exciting Disco Ball Drop party on NYE. There will be no cover and specials run from 8 p.m.-2 a.m., including $8 Champagne cocktails $3 Champagne of Beers, complimentary Disco Ball Drop Shots and music from DJ Flufftronix. *102 S. 13th St., tikiphilly.com*

Garage
Both Garage locations in Fishtown and Passyunk will be ringing in the new year with amazing parties. Garage Fishtown (open NYE, 5 p.m.-2 a.m.) will have no cover and $5 whiskey Sidecars, party favors, a champagne toast as the ball drops and DJ Ronnie Bullets spinning all night. Garage Passyunk (open New Year's Day, noon-2 a.m.) will have $5 Beermosas and Bloody Mary's from noon to 3 p.m. *1231 E. Passyunk Ave. & 100 E. Girard Ave., garagephilly.com*

Frankford Hall
On the last night of the year, join Frankford Hall for its fourth annual NYE Concert Under the Stars featuring Vacationer. This year will also feature performances from MINKA and Sixteen Jackies, along with DJ OhK Kyle. Doors open at 8 p.m. *1210 Frankford Ave., frankfordhall.com*

U-Bahn
U-Bahn is hosting its 4th Annual Eyes Wide Shut Masquerade on NYE. Enjoy five hours of premium open bar, hors d'oeuvres and more for $100; VIP packages are available as well. *1320 Chestnut St., ubahnphilly.com*

One Liberty Observation Deck
Ring in the new year with a magnificent view of the city, 57 floors up. From 9 p.m.-2 a.m., enjoy an open bar and hors d'oeuvres while sporting your best black-tie attire ($175). *1650 Market St., phillyfromthetop.com*

FAMILY EVENTS

Franklin Square
Enjoy free music and crafts beginning before the Square Drop from atop SquareBurger at 6 p.m. and Sugar House's New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront, viewable from the Square. *200 N. 6th St., historicphiladelphia.org*

Al Pastor
On NYE day, bring the whole family to Al Pastor for its early open at 11 a.m., featuring an early ball drop at 3 p.m.; live music from noon to 4 p.m.; raffles for gift cards, toys and prizes; a pull-string piñata drop; Dough Amigos pizza party; and more. *560 Wellington Sq., Exton, eatalpastor.com*

Lulu's Casita
Head on down to Lulu's for its 6th Annual White Fiesta Countdown to Noon Bash, featuring a special performance from Philly Madbeatz drum line. Other activities include face painting, a balloon drop, a photo booth, pizza and apple juice toast for the kiddies, and complimentary mimosas for the parents. *6 Cricket Ave., Ardmore, luluscasita.com*

Ardmore Music Hall
On NYE day, head to the Ardmore Music Hall for its Family Jam, featuring performances from Alex & The Kaleidoscope, a brunch with plenty of kid-friendly menu items, balloons, face painting and much more. There will also be a cash bar. *23 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, ardmoremusic.com*

Stove and Tap
Head over to Stove and Tap and enjoy its Pajama Brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. that includes a $35 buffet with mimosas and Boardroom Bloodys, plus watch the Mummers Parade live on TV. *329 W. Main St., Lansdale, stoveandtap.com*

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Fans are loving NBC's "The Good Place." COLLEEN HAYES/NBC

All the best TV shows of 2018

"Peak TV" or not, television seems to be getting better with every year.
ANDREW HUSBAND

There is a lot of television happening right now. As silly as so-called "Peak TV" has gotten as of late, the amount of undeniably good TV being made by writers, producers and performers is also getting higher. So here's Metro's list of the best shows of 2018.

'Barry' (HBO)
Equal parts dark comedy and violent drama, the first season of HBO's "Barry" saw "Saturday Night Live" alum Bill Hader leave his purely comedic roots behind for something far more complex and nuanced. As the titular character, Hader plays a Midwestern hitman who, while scouting a new mark out in Los Angeles, falls in love with acting and decides to leave his storied career behind.

'Daredevil' (Netflix)
"Daredevil" season 3 managed to tap into "The Sopranos," "The Wire" and other modern television classics to produce one of its best story lines — which is a shame, because shortly after its October premiere, Netflix abruptly canceled the show, along with Marvel titles "The Defenders," "Luke Cage" and "Iron Fist."

'Castle Rock' (Hulu)
The past few years have seen a new renaissance of Stephen King adaptations, including Hulu's horror anthology "Castle Rock," which takes its inspiration from the fictional New England region that many of King's stories inhabit. It's horrifying, intriguing and gripping enough even to keep the most scare-resistant viewers watching.

'The Americans' (FX)
Awards shows have never been keen on recognizing FX's long-running spy thriller "The Americans," despite critics and fans' best efforts. Even so, Joe Weisberg's expertly crafted period piece finally came to an end this year with its sixth season. For those who had followed along from the beginning, the ending was worth the wait.

'BoJack Horseman' (Netflix)
Every time "BoJack Horseman" creator Raphael Bob-Waksberg's animated dramedy manages to release a new season on Netflix, he and his team find several new ways to tug at their audience's heartstrings. Season 5 did just that, with a brand-new collection of episodes about Will Arnett's titular talking horse.

'Killing Eve' (BBC America)
No one was expecting a little BBC America series about a psychotic assassin tracking down the spy assigned to follow her to take off, and yet here we are. After a first season that took American and British audiences by storm, "Killing Eve," which stars Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh as the assassin and the spy, proved itself to be one of the year's best shows. Created by "Fleabag"'s Phoebe Waller-Bridge, the show won widespread critical acclaim and regularly sat atop social media charts. And yes, a second season is coming.

'The Good Place' (NBC)
Fans of "The Office" and "Parks and Recreation" have recently been on a tear about whether both shows will buy into the current revival craze a la "Will & Grace" and "Roseanne." So far, that's not going to happen, which is perfectly fine since producer and writer Mike Schur is hard at work crafting new stories, jokes and philosophical traps for his afterlife comedy "The Good Place." The show has presented some of the year's more ridiculous comedy set pieces and launched a renaissance of sorts for Ted Danson.

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The biggest *pop culture* moments of 2018

It was a year of shocking and surprising moments. MOLLY GIVEN

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

It has been a year of moments, some interesting, some hilarious and some shocking. With the end of the year now fast approaching, Metro is taking a look back at some of the biggest pop culture moments in 2018.

The royal wedding
Meghan Markle got to live out every girl's dream by marrying Prince Harry in a beautiful wedding ceremony this year, and ultimately becoming a princess. The American-born actress truly got to live out a real-life "Princess Diaries" story, and now she is officially a royal. The wedding ceremony was star-studded and truly memorable.

Kanye West
It's too hard to pick just one Kanye moment from 2018. He visited the White House to talk to President Trump, made a bizarre speech while he was a musical guest on "Saturday Night Live" and got into an intense Twitter beef with Drake. The rapper is honestly a gift that just keeps on giving.

'Roseanne' gets canceled
The hype from the highly anticipated reboot of "Roseanne" was short-lived after the show's star tweeted out a highly racist message to a former senior advisor of President Barack Obama, resulting in the show being canceled. Producers decided to bring it back as "The Conners," and Barr was written off (her character died of an opioid overdose) and the rest of the cast went on to film without her.

Aretha Franklin passes away
Musical legend Aretha Franklin passed away in August at age 76 of pancreatic cancer and the country mourned the loss of the Queen of Soul. Her funeral featured unforgettable performances from Chaka Khan, Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder. Although there will never be a performer quite like Franklin, she still continues to inspire many.

Cardi B throws a shoe at Nicki Minaj
Cardi threw a shoe at the "Chun-Li" rapper during a fashion show at the height of New York Fashion Week. Minaj reportedly "didn't even flinch" and Cardi had a big smile on her face and ultimately the fight between the two talented performers is still going strong.

Ariana Grande's love life
The songstress has quite a colorful romantic past — just in the last year. She and longtime boyfriend Mac Miller split up in the spring, and she went on to date "SNL" star Pete Davidson. Grande and Davidson got engaged after just a few weeks, then broke up soon after the tragic news of Mac Miller's passing. Grande's newest single, "Thank U, Next," was consequently written about all of her exes.

Serena Williams loses the U.S. Open
First, tennis megastar Serena Williams' coach Patrick Mouratoglou was called for an infraction from the bench during her final match of the U.S. Open. Then Williams began to yell at the umpire, calling him a "thief" and a "liar," causing event officials to head onto the court to handle the issue.

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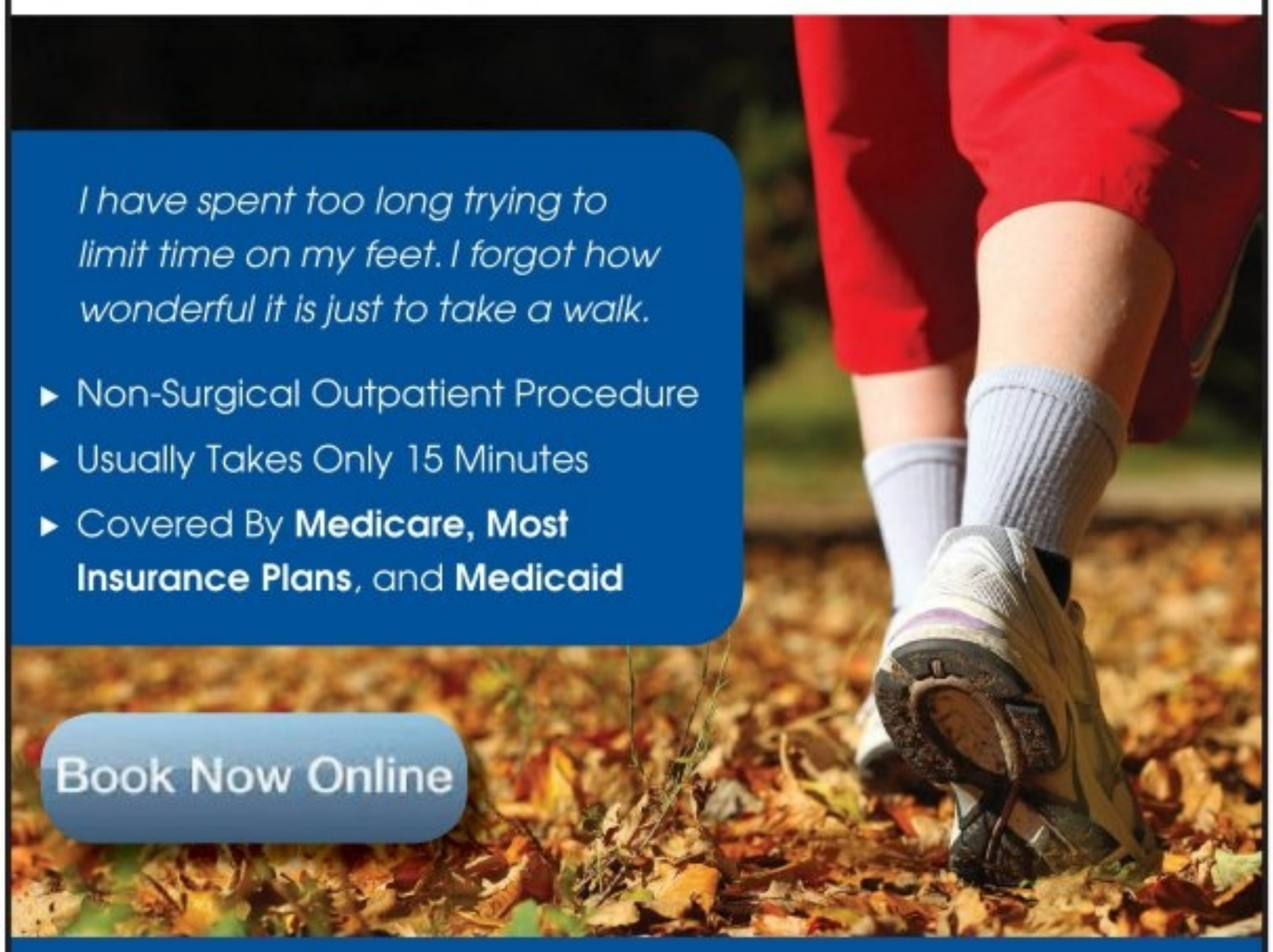

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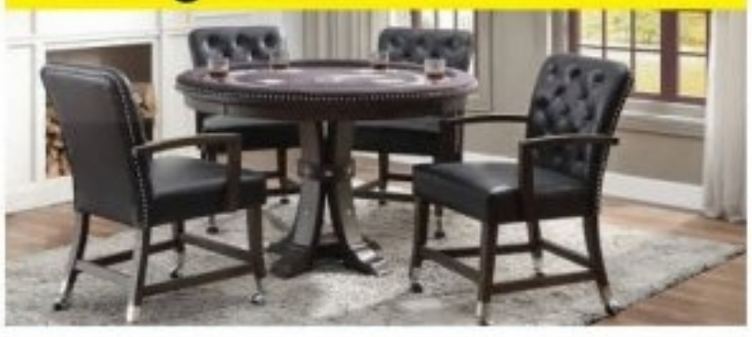

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Social Media Trends 2018

The most popular pic on Instagram

American reality TV personality, model and entrepreneur Kylie Jenner's post on Instagram featuring the first photograph of her daughter has been "liked" the most this year; it received 18 million-plus hearts and thousands of comments. The shot was posted on Feb. 6 with the caption "stormi webster." That same month, **@kyliejenner** uploaded a video to YouTube titled **"To Our Daughter,"** an 11-minute film that detailed her pregnancy and the birth of Stormi. It was **watched 53 million-plus times** and became the platform's No. 1 Top Trending Video of 2018.

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Song of the year

Canadian musician **Drake** released "God's Plan" on Jan. 19 as the lead single from his fifth studio album, **"Scorpion."** It received five nominations at the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards, topped the charts in 14 countries and reached the top 10 in nine others. **"God's Plan"** broke first-day streaming records on both **Apple Music (with 14 million streams)** and **Spotify (with 4.3 million plays).** According to Spotify, the song has been listened to the most during 2018 with a stunning **1.1 billion streams.**

'In My Feelings' Challenge

Canadian musician Drake was in spotlight for yet another song in 2018. "In My Feelings," a single from his fifth studio album, "Scorpion," inspired an internet meme dance challenge known as the "Kiki Challenge" or "'In My Feelings' Challenge." It was started by the comedian **Shiggy**, who posted a **video on Instagram** of himself dancing to the song. The challenge consists of walking outside of moving vehicles and dancing in oncoming traffic. It caused **controversy** and public concern in several countries and was **officially banned** in the Philippines.

THE MOST RETWEETED: 'LIMONADA 2.0'

This year's most retweeted message was made once again by a ***YouTuber*** and gamer from Madrid, ***@Rubius5***. He posted the Spanish translation for the word "Lemonade," as he did back in 2016. That year his post gathered 1.4 million retweets, and in 2018, it received the same amount, ***plus 1.2 million likes.***

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A Tribute to The Clash
Dec. 28

Reana, the popular tribute band, will put their spin on popular Clash classics. **7-11 p.m., Underground Arts, 1200 Callowhill St., $12-$15**

29

Adult BYOB Boozy Baking Class
Dec. 29

Sip on your favorite beverages while baking boozy treats with spirited icing. **7-10 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 401 Lombard St.,$70-$130**

31

John Oliver
Dec. 31

The snarky comedian is spending the last day of 2018 in Philly, and he is inviting all Philadelphians to enjoy the hilarious show. **7 p.m., The Met, 858 N. Broad St., prices vary**

Fun and unique things to do in Philly this month

Mummers Parade
Jan. 1

Join in on the widely loved and celebrated tradition of the Mummers Parade on New Year's Day, exclusively in Philadelphia. **9 a.m., City Hall, free**

'Philly All-Pro Comedy Showcase'
Jan. 2

Check out some of the best comedians in the Greater Philadelphia area during a showcase that will leave you wanting more. **8 p.m., Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St., $10-$15**

Bowie Masquerade Ball
Jan. 4

The colorful ball is a part of the new "Philly Loves Bowie" week. Dress up, listen to his hits and prepare for an amazing night. **10 p.m.- 2 a.m., Ruba Club, 416 Green St., $10**

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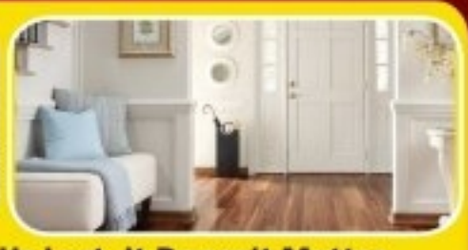

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'The Prince Experience'
Jan. 5

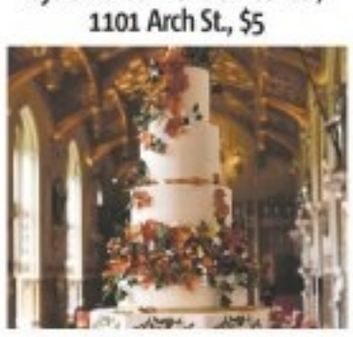
Re-live Prince's classics, including "Purple Rain," as musician Gabriel Sanchez leads the Prince tribute band. **9-11 p.m., Theatre of Living Arts, 334 South St., $20**

Greater Philadelphia Pet Show
Jan. 11

Animal lovers and all furry friend enthusiasts will love this pet show full of vendors selling goodies for all Philly pets. **times vary, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks, $5-$20**

Pennsylvania Bridal & Wedding Expo
Jan. 6

Future brides, MOHs and romance lovers, rejoice: The most romantic expo is coming to Philly to help prepare anyone for their big day. **11 a.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., $5**



Bibliococktails
Jan. 11

Walt Whitman fans, unite! This event will feature a live reading of his poetry as well as cocktails themed around his popular works. **6-8 p.m., Art in the Age, 116 N. 3rd St., $25**

Spanish Wine Dinner
Jan. 8

Transport to Spain without getting on a plane with this multi-course dinner featuring plenty of delicious Spanish wines. **6:30-8:30 pm, Cerdo, 382 E. Elm St., Conshohocken, $65**

Winterfest Live
Jan. 12

Head over to Xfinity Live! to sample over 150 beers from 75 breweries, sit by firepits, play games and more. **1-6 p.m., Xfinity Live!, 1100 Pattison Ave., $35-$50**

'Beautiful: The Carol King Musical'
Jan. 8

Listen to hits like "I Feel The Earth Move" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) a Natural Woman" during the tribute show. **times vary, Academy of Music, 240 S. Broad St., $20-$149**

Masquerade on the Moshulu
Jan. 12

Attend an extravagant masquerade ball while on the gorgeous Moshulu boat down by the waterfront in Penn's Landing. **9 p.m.-midnight, Moshulu, 401 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd., $70**

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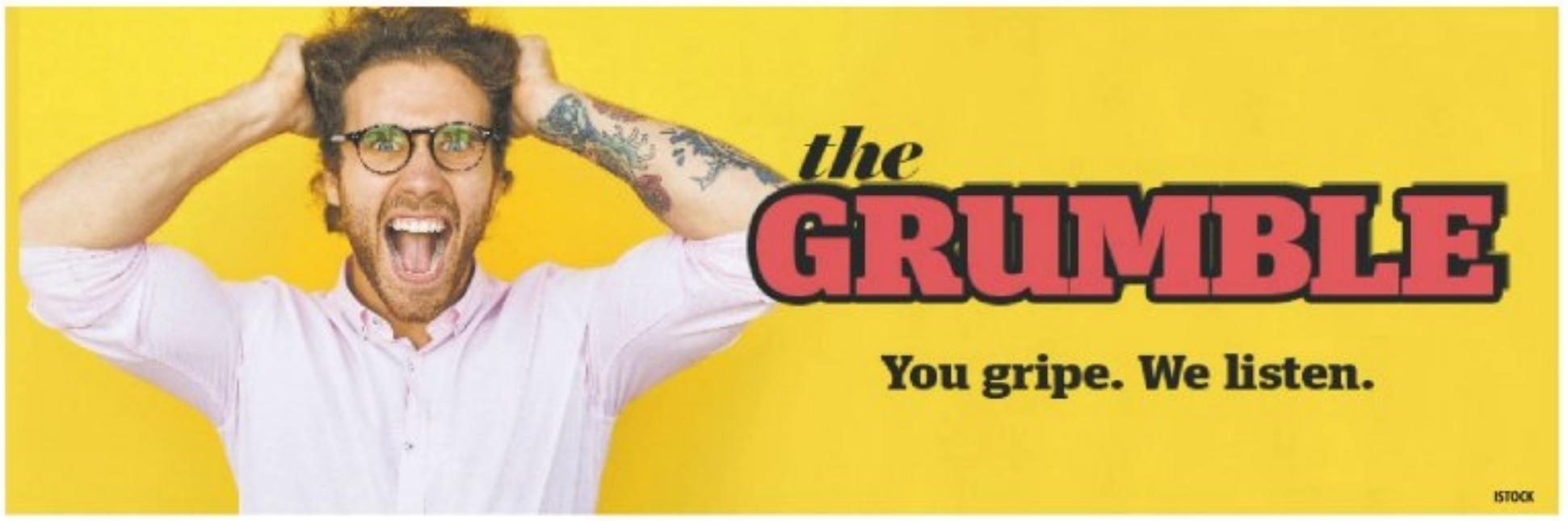

Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

THE BEST HOLIDAY HANGOVER CURE!

Too much merriment over the holiday, or any day, can cause a regrettable "hangover." Try some turmeric tea. Not only does it help to protect your liver, which is working overtime at this point, but it works as an antioxidant. Turmeric tea can be somewhat of a painkiller as well, which will help out with that headache you may suffer the day after partaking in too many alcohol-infused celebratory drinks. More than that, turmeric tea will assist with eliminating your malaise. To make this elixir, you need to add the following to a cup of boiled water: 1/2 teaspoon of turmeric, a dash each of cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, honey and milk (to taste). Sip slowly and enjoy as the healing properties perform their magic.

— **Bernadette,** *Metro US Reader*

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WE WANT TO SEE YOUR BEST NYE PHOTOS!

Well, Metro readers, this is our last issue of 2018. It's certainly been a wild ride of a year and I don't think we would be talking out of school in saying that we can only hope for good things in the new year. Monday night will certainly go out with a blast and we want to see some of your photos from your New Year's Eve bash! Send them over to **humble@metro.us** and we will post them here!

ISTOCK

Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

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INVITE THE WORLD TO YOUR EVENTS
List your event on metro.us/events

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Aries Be careful whom you open up to and with whom you share your secrets and personal information. A change you've been contemplating will do you good.

Taurus Do something with a loved one. Whether it's a shopping spree or seeing a movie, choose to do something with someone who brings you joy and makes you feel good about yourself.

Gemini Make sure that you mean what you say and that you stick to the facts. Putting untrue ideas in someone's head will lead to trouble.

Cancer Put greater emphasis on important relationships. Sharing your plans and doing things you've never done before are encouraged. Physical improvements will enhance your day.

Leo Take the safe route. Whether driving, navigating your way through a conversation or dealing with people who are argumentative, keep the peace, make wise choices and be cautious.

Virgo If you take into consideration what others want, you will make a good impression. Share your thoughts and feelings to have a lasting effect on others.

Libra Pay closer attention to those who don't have the finer things in life. A kind gesture or word to someone elderly or who feels all alone will make a difference that will warm your heart.

Scorpio Visit friends or get out and do something that will give you greater insight into what you would like to try or accomplish. Plan a trip that will broaden your sense of awareness.

Sagittarius It will be easy to take someone's words the wrong way. Don't let your emotions take charge and lead to an argument. You'll benefit most from listening and choosing to be practical.

Capricorn Take care of financial business, and consider what you can do to head into next year with greater momentum. Implementing a new exercise and fitness regimen is encouraged.

Aquarius Think about what it is you want and the best way to make it happen. Having a strategy in place will make it easier to reach your goal.

Pisces Rejuvenate by taking time out to relax and go over what's happened in the past year. It won't take long to figure out the changes you want to make moving forward. EUGENIA LAST

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Kevin Hart will perform at the Hard Rock Casino on Dec. 28. GETTY IMAGES

Holidays at a Philly or Atlantic City casino near you

A quick casino guide to New Year's Eve parties in Atlantic City and the Philly area.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

Maybe the idea of spending the year-end holidays — those days usually reserved for home, hearth, friends and family — in a den of inequity, gambling and drinking, seems weird or sad. Then again, maybe you should buck up, since casinos are where all the action, fun and frenzy occur. And, you can bring the family — what kid doesn't like dice and roulette?

Here's a quick look at what casinos between Atlantic City and the Philadelphia area have prepared for your New Year's celebration.

Burlesque Holiday Show

Before you start yearning for an old-fashioned Santa and some elves, the Borgata goes for an old-school showcase of its own with classic vaudeville blackout skits, variety show acts (e.g., jugglers, magicians), and risqué (but not too ribald) burlesque-themed dance production numbers with feathers and folderol. *Through Monday, Dec. 31, at The Music Box at the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa, 1 Borgata Way, Atlantic City, N.J., theborgata.com*

$100,000 New Year's Eve Sweepstakes and Racing

Here's an all-day gambling paradise: Get to Parx Casino in Bensalem between now and the 31st, and you can sign up to win up to $2,000 free slot play. Then, on New Year's Eve, from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., lucky guests will be selected every hour to win $200 free slot plays. The highest-entry earner among the winning 40 guests will be selected each hour to win $2,000 free slot plays. Plus, there is live horse racing at Parx Race Track starting at 12:30 p.m. that same day. *Monday, Dec. 31, Parx Casino and Race Track, Bensalem, Pa, parxcasino.com*

NYE with War

This isn't some sort of loud battle cry, despite the ferocious fireworks on the Boardwalk that night. War, the '70s rollicking rocking R&B act famous for "Low Rider" and "Why Can't We Be Friends?" are onboard, live, throughout the evening. *Monday, Dec. 31, Tropicana, Atlantic City, tropicana.net*

Three Days of Hard Rock Holiday

For the first holiday season of the Hard Rock Casino in Atlantic City since its summer inception, they've got a broad, wide-ranging selection of acts and several big names to represent them. On Dec. 28, they're commencing their run-up to New Year's with Philly-born comedian and actor Kevin Hart. Frankly, at this point, it doesn't get bigger than that. On Dec. 30, Hard Rock hosts the alternative rock-lite sounds of Breaking Benjamin. Then, for the big NYE mammoo, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers (and one-time recording artists for Gamble & Huff's smooth R&B-based Philly International Records) The O'Jays will join forces with the "Brick House" funk of The Commodores for a hot lead-off into 2019. Impressive, that. *Friday, Dec. 28, through Monday, Dec. 31, Hard Rock Casino and Hotel, Atlantic City, hardrockhotels.com/atlantic-city*

2019 NYE Bash

The private-area VIP tickets are already sold out for this one, but don't be too discouraged. SugarHouse Casino's NYE bash still offers premium liquor and food options with cover band favorites the Rockets onboard until 1 a.m. Plus, you don't have to be a VIP to get a premium look-see at the Penn's Landing fireworks. *Monday, Dec. 31, SugarHouse Casino, Philadelphia, sugarhousecasino.com*

Premiere Nightclub's Run-up to NYE

If you wanted to pack a room for a swinging party, you'd hire a great, dynamic DJ. Well, Premiere booked four of the tops in the dance music field — from EDM to hip-hop soul — for the extended holiday. Along with the legendary Tiesto, and nightly features from RL Grimes and Gryffin, New Year's Eve stars DJ Mustard — who just happens to be on top of the world, what with producing R&B sensation Ella Mai. *Through Monday, Dec. 31, at Premiere Nightclub at the Borgata Hotel, Atlantic City, theborgata.com*

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Indonesian rescuers struggle against heavy rain to reach tsunami-hit villages

A state of emergency has been declared until Jan. 4.

GETTY IMAGES

Indonesian rescue teams on Wednesday struggled to reach remote areas on the western coast of Java amid an "extreme weather" rain warning after a tsunami killed more than 400 people last week.

Heavy rain lashed fishing villages along the coast, muddying roads and holding up convoys delivering heavy machinery and aid to isolated areas while authorities urged residents to stay away from the shore in case of further waves.

Clouds of ash spewed from the nearby Anak Krakatau ("Child of Krakatau"), almost obscuring the volcanic island where a crater collapse at high tide on Saturday sent waves up to 16 feet high smashing into the coast on the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra islands.

Indonesia's meteorology agency (BMKG) said the rough weather could make the volcano's crater more fragile.

"We have developed a monitoring system focused specifically on the volcanic tremors at Anak Krakatau so that we can issue early warnings," said BMKG head Dwikorita Karnawati, adding that a two-kilometer exclusion zone had been imposed.

The confirmed death toll is 430, with at least 159 people missing. Nearly 1,500 people were injured and over 21,000 people have evacuated to higher ground.

A state of emergency has been declared until Jan. 4, which authorities hope will make it easier to deploy assistance, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the national disaster mitigation agency.

Search and rescue teams were focused on the town of Sumur near the southwest tip of Java, but "the roads are damaged and clogged" and helicopters had to be deployed to carry out assessments and evacuations, he added.

Volunteers were having to piece together makeshift bridges out of concrete blocks after the waves washed away infrastructure along the coast.

Indonesia is a vast archipelago that sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire." This year, the country has suffered its worst annual death toll from disasters in more than a decade.

The latest disaster, coming during the Christmas season, evoked memories of the Indian Ocean tsunami triggered by an earthquake on Dec. 26, 2004, which killed 226,000 people in 14 countries, including more than 120,000 in Indonesia.

The Saturday evening tsunami followed the collapse of an area of the volcano island of about 222 acres, or about 90 soccer pitches.

The waves engulfed fishing villages and holiday resorts, leaving a coast littered with the matchwood of homes, crushed vehicles and fallen trees. Children's toys and rides at a seaside carnival in Sumur were left scattered along a swampy beach.

The surge of seawater also left dozens of turtles, weighing several kilograms, stranded on land, and some volunteer rescuers worked to carry them back to the sea.

On Sebesi Island in the middle of the Sunda Strait, helicopters had been dispatched to evacuate residents. REUTERS

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SPORTS

Sixers center Joel Embiid is one of the stars putting Philly sports back on the map. GETTY IMAGES

2018 Review: Top 5 Philly athletes

We saw a lot of great individual performances across the city this year.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

As we wrap up another fun year in Philadelphia sports and look forward to 2019, it is a great time to look at who were the top athletes in the city.

There were a lot of great individual performances from various Philly athletes such as Joel Embiid and Nick Foles that not only brought excitement to the city but also lifted their respective teams to new heights.

Here at Metro, we to list the top 5 Philadelphia athletes in 2018:

1. NICK FOLES

If you are coming up with a list of the top-five Philadelphia athletes in 2018, you need Eagles quarterback Nick Foles on it. The veteran quarterback comes in at No. 1 as he helped the Eagles win their first Super Bowl in franchise history back in February over the New England Patriots.

The journeyman quarterback, who once contemplated retirement, had one of the best postseasons in recent NFL history. Foles had six touchdowns and an interception in three playoff games, including an amazing 373-yard, four total touchdown performance in Super Bowl 52.

It was the perfect storybook ending for a franchise, who yearned for a championship for many years.

2. JOEL EMBIID

While Foles was dominating the gridiron to begin the year, 76ers big man Joel Embiid was putting up gaudy numbers on the hardwood. The former third-overall pick averaged 22.9 points, 11.0 rebounds, and 3.2 assists in 30.3 minutes during the 2017-18 season.

With those types of stats, Embiid was named to his first of many NBA All-Star teams and also participated in the USA vs. World game during all-star weekend. The 24-year-old center played a huge role in the team's success last season and was one of the reasons why they won 52 games and made the playoffs.

In addition to what he did last season, Embiid has already started the 2018-19 season off on a good note and putting himself in the MVP consideration. He is averaging career-highs across the board with 26.3 points, 13.2 rebounds, and 3.6 assists per game.

3. CARSON WENTZ

After missing the last month of the regular season and the postseason with a knee injury, Wentz came back this summer looking to prove that 2017 was not a fluke.

The third-year quarterback made his 2018 regular season debut in Week 3 and showed he still had it before a back injury.

He completed a career-high 69.6 percent of his passes for 3,074 yards with 21 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

4. BEN SIMMONS

Along with Embiid, Ben Simmons had an amazing 2017-18 season, which led to him winning the Rookie of the Year award over Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell.

Simmons almost averaged a triple-double consisting of 15.8 points, 8.2 assists and 8.1 rebounds in 33.7 minutes per game.

This year, the former first overall pick is averaging 15.8 points, 9.0 rebounds, and 7.9 assists and is on the verge of becoming a top-10 player in the NBA.

5. AARON NOLA

Last but not least is Philadelphia Phillies ace pitcher Aaron Nola. The 25-year-old starter had a career-year and helped the Phils be competitive through the summer.

Nola had a record of 17-6 with an ERA of 2.37 in 33 starts. He also recorded 224 strikeouts in 212.1 innings pitched and finished third in the NL Cy Young race.

Nola just like Embiid was rewarded for his outstanding season and named to the MLB All-Star game for the first time in his career. This spot on the list was tough because it could've gone to him or first baseman Rhys Hoskins, who had a fantastic year too.

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'18 Review: Who's tops in the city?

1. 76ERS

In a surprising turn of events, the Sixers claim the top spot as the best team in the city this year. It easily could have gone to the Philadelphia Eagles, who won the Super Bowl in February, but in the totality of the year, the Sixers have galvanized everybody.

They won 52 games to end last season and won a first-round playoff series against the Miami Heat. And not to mention, Joel Embiid made his first All-Star team and Ben Simmons won the Rookie of Year award over Donovan Mitchell.

Furthermore, they also traded for star two-way guard Jimmy Butler in November, which has helped establish themselves as one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference.

2. EAGLES

Speaking of being one of the best teams, the Eagles had that claim to fame before this season began. Philadelphia completed one of the most improbable and historic postseason runs to win Super Bowl LII over the New England Patriots.

Despite a Super Bowl win, the Eagles take a back seat to the Sixers. GETTY IMAGES

However, things have not completely gone the defending Super Bowl champs way this year as the injury bug has bitten them a lot.

The defense has lost numerous key members, while the offense has lost Wentz, Jay Ajayi, Corey Clement, Mike Wallace, and Mack Hollins. But to their credit, they did not quit, even though there were many times during the year where they could have.

3. PHILLIES

If there were an award for the most improved team in the city, it would go to the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Phils kept their fans excited throughout the summer and actually gave them something to root for down the stretch. First-year manager Gabe Kapler was not liked at first by the fans and media alike for his out-of-box style, but he stuck to his philosophies and things started to turn around.

With all that being said, the Phillies are in a great position for 2019 with budding stars in Aaron Nola and Rhys Hoskins to continue to build around.

4. FLYERS

This year has not been the best for the Orange and Black. Back in the spring, the Pittsburgh Penguins embarrassed them in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Then to start this season, the Flyers were consistently getting embarrassed on a nightly basis, which ultimately led to the dismissals of GM Ron Hextall and head coach Dave Hakstol.

Now with a new regime starting to take shape, things could start to improve in 2019. Can Carter Hart be the No. 1 goaltender for the Flyers? And will fans have something else to be excited for other than Gritty?

We shall see when the calendar flips to 2019. JOVAN ALFORD

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215.236.7700 (ext. 325)
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Interested persons may comment or raise concerns about the proposed action by submitting an e-mail to enviro.services@americantower.com. Paper comments can be sent to: American Towers LLC, Attn: Environmental Compliance, 10 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801. Requests or comments should be limited to environmental and historic/cultural resource impact concerns, and must be received on or before January 26, 2019. This invitation to comment is separate from any local planning/zoning process that may apply to this project.

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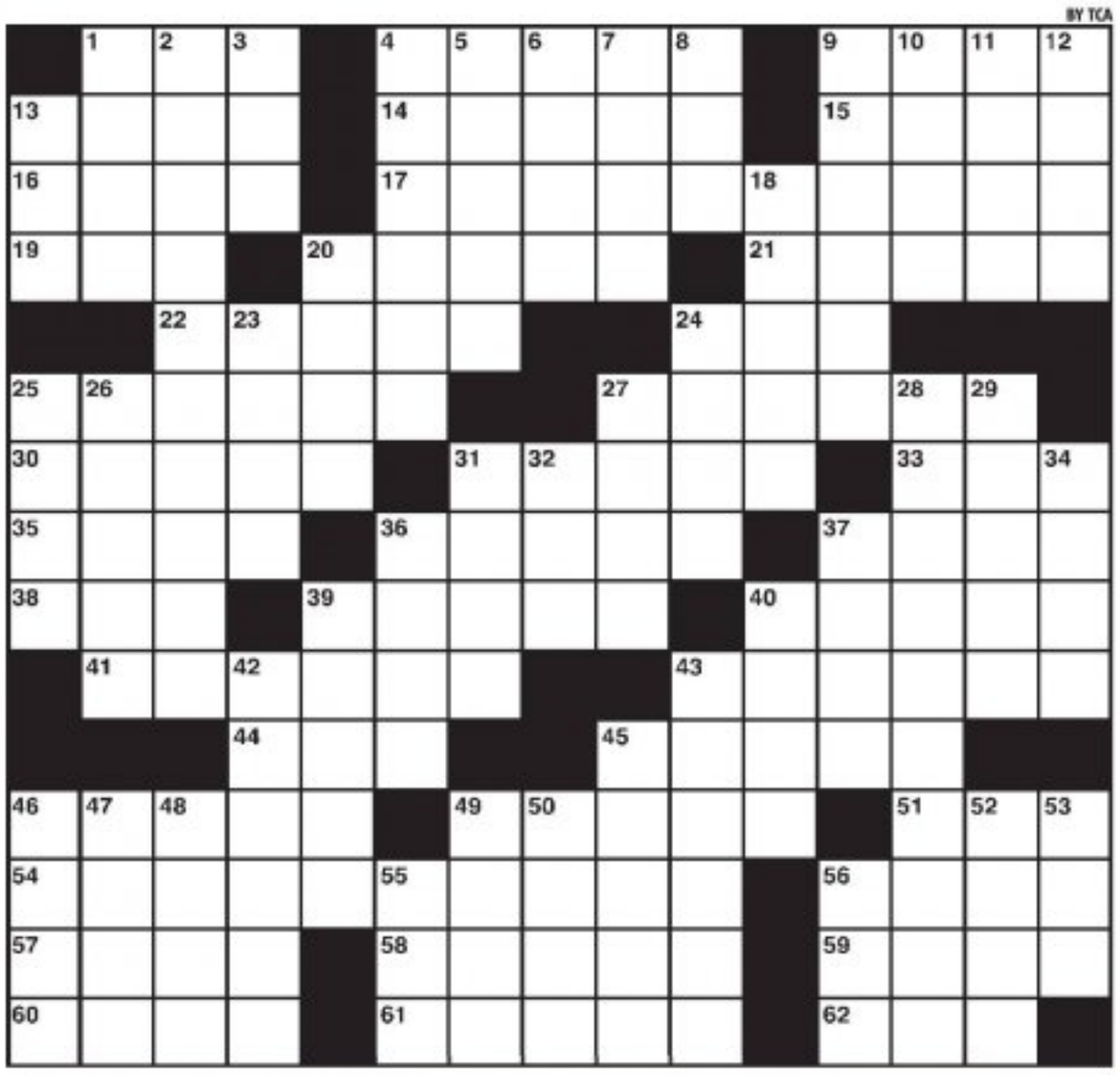

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ACROSS

1 Hot tub
4 Stay away from
9 Envelop
13 In __; impoverished
14 __ beans
15 Frau's husband
16 Franklin and Stiller
17 Takes __ over; outweighs
19 Ted Danson TV series
20 Partially melted snow
21 Nervous
22 Dessert choices
24 Pen name
25 Excuses
27 Most immaculate
30 "For Whom the Bell __"
31 Highly seasoned
33 Edison's monogram
35 Acting part
36 Tiny particle
37 Treaty
38 French friend
39 Teasdale and Gilbert
40 Orlando team
41 "Make it __!"; "Hurry up!"
43 End-to-end measurement
44 City transport
45 Silly as a __
46 Mistake
49 "Turkey in the __"
51 Record speed letters
54 Hairdresser
56 Dishonest one
57 Horse's home
58 Tango or twist
59 Overnight stops
60 Drove too fast
61 Web-footed mammal
62 Fragile edible

DOWN

1 Observes
2 Most widely used antibiotic
3 Commercials
4 Red, green & yellow fruits
5 Flu cause
6 Individuals
7 Dry skin symptom
8 Female animal
9 From what place
10 Monthly expense
11 Circle portions
12 Hunted animal
13 CBS competitor
18 Grocery store section
20 Enjoys a winter sport
23 Up to the task
24 Dollar bill
25 Gillette razor model
26 Weaving devices
27 Photos, for short
28 Walking unsteadily
29 Implied, though not spoken
31 Agile
32 Split __ soup
34 Engrave
36 Gullible fools
37 Skillets
39 Gush forth
40 Cat's cry
42 Be plentiful
43 Car to use temporarily
45 Prayer before meals
46 Flows back
47 Gather crops
48 Unusual
49 "Beat it!"
50 Color slightly
52 Brief spasm of pain
53 Sra. or Mme.
55 Marriage words
56 Whopper

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